

REMARKS

The main claim has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-5, 9, and 16-18. Based on the recitation at page 1, line 6, the claim has been further limited to performing the second step without isolation of the intermediate halosulfone. It is believed that the inclusion of these limitations in the main claim overcome the Examiner's concerns about the breadth of the main claim.

As amended, the present invention is directed to a two-step process in which the intermediate product is not isolated before the second step. It is well-appreciated in the art that a far more efficient process is obtained if one does not have to isolate and purify an intermediate prior to proceeding with a subsequent step. In the present invention, this can be accomplished as set forth in the application and examples employing one of the inorganic bases indicated.

Enclosed herewith is a Declaration of inventor Charles W. Wright that sets forth experimental results and observations related to the present invention and to Sera et al. In experiment 1, he repeats Examples 1 and 2 of Sera in a non-isolation reaction with the result that there resulted a significant unwanted polymerization of the sulfone. The resulting product was analyzed, and about 54% existed as a dimerized bis(vinyl sulfonyl) methane. Thus, the process disclosed by the reference would not be useful for synthesis of the targeted bis(vinylsulfone)methane via a non-isolation process.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Declaration, and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection and to pass the subject application to Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 25,518

Arthur E. Kluegel/dlm
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 477-2625
Facsimile: (585) 477-1148

Encl.: Declaration of Charles W. Wright